

**BEFORE YOU START · 30 AUGUST 2026, FROM MEMORY**

- CERT-In is India's nodal cyber incident agency under Section 70B of the IT Act, 2000, under MeitY.
 - Article 371A was inserted by the Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Act, 1962 and came into force on December 1, 1963.
 - Section 53 of the FSS Act, 2006 allows a penalty up to Rs 10 lakh for a misleading food advertisement.
- Read each line, look away, and say the figure or name from memory before checking. ★ on today's cards marks each card's single highest-yield fact.

THE DAY'S ARTICLES

Cards 1–10

GEOGRAPHY

1

Nepal's Bhotekoshi Flood: The Tolls Diverge Between Bulletins

Casualty figures for the **Bhotekoshi flood** of **August 26, 2026** differed sharply between bulletins issued on **August 31**, with rescue operations continuing in hydropower tunnels with **Indian and Chinese** assistance.

- The Bhotekoshi flood occurred on August 26, 2026 in Rasuwa district on the Nepal-Tibet border.
- Initial assessment attributed it to an ice avalanche blocking the Lhende river.
- Nepal's disaster agency is the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.
- On August 29, 208 people were pulled from the Trishuli-III tunnel, 43 of them foreign nationals.
- Casualty bulletins on August 31 ranged from 675 to 903 dead; this edition reports the range.



Full article

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

3

Rajasthan Sets Urban Local Body Polls for September 9 and 11

Rajasthan's civic elections will be held in **two phases, on September 9 and September 11, 2026**, covering **10,245 councillor seats across 309 urban local bodies**.

- Rajasthan's urban local body polls are on September 9 and 11, 2026, in two phases.
- The polls cover 10,245 councillor seats across 309 urban local bodies.
- The State Election Commission released the schedule on August 19, 2026.
- The BJP announced candidates for 145 Jaipur Municipal Corporation wards on August 31, 2026.
- Municipal elections are conducted by State Election Commissions, not the Election Commission of India.
- Article 243ZA provides for State Election Commission superintendence of municipal elections.
- ★ The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 inserted Part IXA and the Twelfth Schedule.



Full article

SECURITY & DEFENCE

2

India Signs the Letter of Offer and Acceptance for the Javelin

India signed a **Letter of Offer and Acceptance with the United States on August 28, 2026** for the **FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank guided missile**, valued at about **45.7 million United States dollars**, under the **Foreign Military Sales** route.

- India signed the Javelin Letter of Offer and Acceptance with the United States on August 28, 2026.
- The package is valued at about 45.7 million dollars for 100 rounds and 25 lightweight launch units.
- The FGM-148 Javelin is a man-portable, fire-and-forget missile with an imaging infrared seeker.
- It is built by the Javelin Joint Venture of Lockheed Martin and Raytheon.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited signed an agreement with the Javelin Joint Venture in February 2026.
- Foreign Military Sales is a government-to-government route, distinct from direct commercial sale.



Full article

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

4

India Becomes a Petrol Supplier to Russia

Indian refiners supplied as much as **1 million barrels of gasoline to Russia** across **July and August 2026**, as attacks on Russian refineries cut domestic fuel production.

- Indian refiners supplied up to 1 million barrels of gasoline to Russia over July and August 2026.
- Russia's seaborne gasoline imports hit a record of about 125,000 barrels per day in August 2026.
- Much of the supply came from Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery in Gujarat, part-owned by Rosneft.
- Russia extended its gasoline export ban through the end of January 2027.
- Turkey and Morocco also supplied gasoline to Russia in August 2026.



Full article

Bishkek Opens: The SCO Turns 25, and Pakistan Takes the Chair Next

The 26th SCO Summit opened at Bishkek on August 31, 2026 with Modi, Xi Jinping and Putin present. Pakistan takes the rotating chairmanship after this summit.

- The 26th SCO Summit is at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on August 31 and September 1, 2026.
- Pakistan takes the SCO rotating chairmanship after the Bishkek summit and hosts in 2027.
- A Modi-Putin bilateral is scheduled for August 31; no Modi-Xi bilateral was announced.
- The SCO was founded on June 15, 2001 at Shanghai; 2026 is its twenty-fifth year.
- The SCO has 10 member states; India and Pakistan were admitted in 2017 at Astana.
- Iran was admitted to the SCO in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.
- Nurlan Yermekbayev of Kazakhstan is SCO Secretary-General for 2025 to 2027.
- India hosted the SCO summit in virtual format in 2023.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and affecting India's interests

SOURCES The Tribune · Outlook India · TASS · SCO Secretariat

Tashkent Delivers: India and Uzbekistan Sign Up to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

India and Uzbekistan elevated ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership on August 30, 2026, with a long-term uranium framework, UPI-QR interoperability and a 5 billion dollar trade target.

- India and Uzbekistan elevated ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership on August 30, 2026.
- The two sides set an annual bilateral trade target of 5 billion dollars by 2030.
- UPI-QR interoperability for merchant payments in Uzbekistan is reported as a first in Central Asia.
- India has imported Uzbek uranium under a 2019 contract for 1,100 metric tonnes, running through 2026.
- Indians get a 30-day visa-free regime in Uzbekistan; 14 direct flights operate weekly.
- Four Indian universities operate in Uzbekistan and about 16,000 Indian students are enrolled there.
- India's access to the global uranium market rests on the Nuclear Suppliers Group waiver of 2008.
- ★ NPCI operates under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS2 · Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and affecting India's interests

SOURCES Euronews · The Tribune · Sunday Guardian

GDP Grows 7.8 Per Cent in Q1 FY27: The Number, the Revision Beneath It, and the Fiscal Backdrop

India's real GDP grew 7.8 per cent in April-June 2026, beating forecasts, with GVA at 8.2 per cent. The April-July fiscal deficit stands at 26.8 per cent of the FY27 target.

- Real GDP grew 7.8 per cent in Q1 FY2026-27, to Rs 81.36 lakh crore.
- Nominal GDP grew 10.3 per cent, to Rs 88.27 lakh crore.
- Real GVA grew 8.2 per cent; nominal GVA grew 11.5 per cent.
- The release shows the year-ago quarter, Q1 FY2025-26, at 6.9 per cent after revision.
- Gross Fixed Capital Formation grew 11.9 per cent and was 34.3 per cent of nominal GDP.
- The FY2026-27 fiscal deficit target is 4.3 per cent of GDP, about Rs 16.96 lakh crore.
- The statutory fiscal framework is the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.
- The eight core industries carry a combined weight of 40.27 per cent in the IIP.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indian economy, growth and development, and mobilisation of resources

SOURCES MoSPI · Business Standard · BusinessToday

The Sugar Spike: A Crop Failure, an Import Window, and an Argument About Ethanol

Sugar retail prices rose sharply through August 2026 on a production shortfall. The Centre opened a duty-free import window while rejecting the claim that ethanol diversion caused the spike.

- Business Standard recorded retail sugar rising from Rs 48.18 a kg on July 20 to Rs 55.70 on August 20, 2026.
- Gulati and Adhikari recorded the modal retail price rising from about Rs 45 to about Rs 65 a kg in a month.
- Gross sugar production for 2025-26 was revised from about 343.5 lakh tonnes to about 309.5 lakh tonnes.
- Between about 27.5 and 30 lakh tonnes of the 2025-26 crop went to ethanol, on differing estimates.
- Stock limits on mills and traders are imposed under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- FRP is fixed by the Centre on CACP advice under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.
- ISMA has sought a revision of the sugar minimum selling price to about Rs 41.66 per kg.
- BIS was directed to develop the E27 fuel standard; ARAI was tasked with engine studies.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Major crops, cropping patterns, issues of buffer stocks and food security

SOURCES Business Standard · The Indian Express · Outlook Business · PIB

A Succession at India's Largest Private Bank, and Why the RBI Decides It

HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan will not seek reappointment and retires on October 26, 2026. The successor needs Reserve Bank approval under the Banking Regulation Act.

- HDFC Bank said on August 29, 2026 that MD and CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan will not seek reappointment.
- No successor had been approved by the RBI as of end-August 2026.
- Jagdishan became MD and CEO in October 2020, succeeding Aditya Puri.
- ★ Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 requires RBI approval for a bank MD or CEO appointment.
- The RBI circular of April 26, 2021 caps a non-promoter bank MD and CEO tenure at 15 consecutive years.
- A promoter or major-shareholder MD and CEO is capped at 12 years, extendable to 15 at RBI discretion.
- The upper age limit for a private bank MD and CEO is 70 years.
- The RBI's D-SIB framework was introduced in 2014 and updated in 2023.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Indian economy, banking, and mobilisation of resources

SOURCES Business Standard · Business Today · RBI

EOS-05 on September 4: ISRO Returns to the Pad with a Geostationary Eye

ISRO will launch EOS-05, also called GISAT-1A, on GSLV-F17 on September 4, 2026, ending a launch pause and replacing a satellite lost in 2021.

- ISRO will launch EOS-05, also called GISAT-1A, on September 4, 2026.
- The launch vehicle is GSLV-F17, flying from the Second Launch Pad at Sriharikota.
- EOS-05 has a mass of 2,367 kg and is injected into a Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.
- EOS-05 is designed to image the Indian subcontinent at about 30-minute intervals.
- EOS-05 replaces EOS-03, also called GISAT-1, lost in a launch failure in 2021.
- PSLV-C61 carrying EOS-09 failed on May 18, 2025 after a third-stage chamber pressure fall.
- PSLV-C61 was only the third PSLV failure since the vehicle's first flight in 1993.
- The previous PSLV failure before that was PSLV-C39 in 2017.



Full article

SYLLABUS GS3 · Awareness in the field of space

SOURCES ISRO · Business Standard · News Today

DOWN TO EARTH

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

11

Not Wasteland: India Finally Names Its Open Natural Ecosystems

A Down To Earth analysis argues India's first national guide to grasslands and open ecosystems corrects a colonial-era label, but protection needs law, land records and carbon accounting.

- India's first Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems was launched on August 17, 2026.
- The launch took place at UNCCD COP17 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- The guide is from MoEFCC with ATREE, IUCN, the CoE on Sustainable Land Management, ICFRE and ISRO's Space Applications Centre.
- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav spoke virtually at the launch.
- A 2018 government committee had found India lacked a national grassland inventory.
- The Great Indian Bustard is critically endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- India's Land Degradation Neutrality commitments arise under the UNCCD.
- India hosted UNCCD COP14 at New Delhi in 2019; COP16 was held at Riyadh in 2024.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK There are **three Rio Conventions** and each has its own COP series running on its own count: the **UNFCCC** (climate), the **CBD** (biodiversity) and the **UNCCD**...

ECONOMIC TIMES

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

12

Permissible Is Not the Same as Worthy: The HDFC Bank Governance Test

Srinath Sridharan argues the real test at HDFC Bank is not the CEO transition but whether a board can scrutinise an admired institution as hard as its reputation demands.

- Sashidhar Jagdishan announced on August 29, 2026 that he will not seek reappointment as HDFC Bank CEO.
- His term ends on October 26, 2026; the succession requires RBI approval.
- HDFC Bank's board reported penalties of Rs 1 lakh on three senior executives in the MSRDC episode.
- ★ Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 requires RBI approval for bank CEO appointment, reappointment and removal.
- The RBI's April 2021 governance circular caps promoter-CEO tenure at 15 years and professional-CEO tenure at 12.
- The 2021 circular sets an upper age limit of 70 for bank MD and CEO positions.
- HDFC Bank is a Domestic Systemically Important Bank in bucket 2 of the RBI's 2025 D-SIB list.
- The 2025 D-SIB list keeps SBI in bucket 4 and ICICI Bank in bucket 1.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK The columnist states plainly that the listed episodes **do not carry the same evidentiary status**: some are allegations, some are disputed, and some...

HINDUSTAN TIMES

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

13

The Algorithm at the Society Gate: What Gig Work Has Done to Labour

Shashi Shekhar argues India's booming gig economy runs on use-and-throw employment governed by opaque algorithms, and that laws like Rajasthan's must now scale nationally.

- NITI Aayog counted about 77 lakh gig workers in India in 2021.
- The gig workforce has grown about 55 per cent in the four years since, per the piece.
- NITI Aayog projects about 2.3 crore gig workers, near 6.7 per cent of the non-agricultural workforce.
- Nearly 23 per cent of India's gig workforce is concentrated in the National Capital Region.
- NITI Aayog data cited in the piece: 27 per cent of gig workers have faced accidents.
- Festive-season hiring was projected at 2.5 to 3 lakh workers, an 8 to 15 per cent increase.
- Rajasthan's Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2023 was India's first state gig-worker law.
- The EU's Platform Work Directive, 2024 creates a presumption of employment and rights over algorithmic management.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK A **gig worker** and a **platform worker** are related but not identical categories under the Code on Social Security, 2020. A gig worker is anyone earning...

INDIAN EXPRESS

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

14

From More Jobs to Better Jobs: Reading the Employment Data Honestly

Gourav Vallabh argues India's employment base has expanded and the next decade's test is quality: formal jobs, productivity, wages, and women at the centre of the transformation.

- RBI's KLEMS database provisionally estimates employment at 64.33 crore in 2023-24, from 47.15 crore in 2014-15.
- That is 17.18 crore additional workers over nine years, about 1.9 crore a year.
- NITI Aayog released Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047 on August 18, 2026.
- The report estimates 9 crore youth not in education, employment or training, 88 per cent in domestic duties.
- Over 1.64 crore candidates have been trained or oriented under PMKVY.
- Over 56.08 lakh apprentices have been engaged since 2016.
- Start-ups reported more than 23 lakh direct jobs by April 2026.
- Women hold 56 per cent of Jan Dhan accounts and receive about two-thirds of MUDRA loans.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK **KLEMS employment is not PLFS employment.** KLEMS is an RBI **productivity database** whose employment series is built for input accounting and counts all...

From Plate to Plough: When the Fuel Tank Bids Against the Kitchen

Ashok Gulati and Tanmoy Adhikari argue the August 2026 sugar spike exposes structural faults in India's ethanol programme, and that food must outrank fuel in the claim on cane.

- The modal retail price of sugar rose from about Rs 45 a kg on July 24, 2026 to about Rs 65 by August 24.
- Business Standard's series recorded Rs 48.18 a kg on July 20, 2026 rising to Rs 55.70 on August 20.
- Gross sugar production for 2025-26 was revised from about 34.3 million tonnes to an official 30.6 million.
- Gulati and Adhikari expect a further downward revision to 28 to 29 million tonnes.
- Stock limits on mills and traders rest on the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- FRP is set by the Centre on CACP advice under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966.
- ISMA has sought a revision of the sugar minimum selling price to about Rs 41.66 per kg.
- BIS was directed to develop the E27 standard; ARAI was tasked with engine modification studies.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK The **minimum selling price of sugar** is a **floor below which mills may not sell**. It is not the **Minimum Support Price** of foodgrains, which is a...

The Himalaya Serves Another Warning, and India Cannot Hear It

Gopalkrishna Gandhi argues the Nepal glacial disaster is a warning India is structurally unable to receive, because hazard knowledge stays locked in the specialist's closed fist.

- The Bhote Koshi flash flood followed an event on August 26, 2026 in Nepal's Rasuwa district.
- Casualty bulletins on August 31, 2026 ranged from 675 to 903 dead.
- Hindu Kush Himalaya mean temperature rose about 0.28 degrees Celsius per decade, 1951 to 2020.
- Warming above four kilometres altitude was faster, at about 0.34 degrees Celsius per decade.
- ICIMOD's HKH Monsoon Outlook 2026 warned of a hotter, drier season with sudden cloudbursts.
- The State of India Environment Report 2026 recorded extreme weather on 99 per cent of days in 2025.
- Those events caused over 4,400 deaths and damaged 17.41 million hectares of crops.
- India's disaster architecture rests on the Disaster Management Act, 2005.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK A glacial lake outburst flood and a landslide-dammed outburst flood are **not the same hazard**. A GLOF releases water impounded behind a moraine or ice...

Malicious, or Merely Unwelcome? India and the Treaty Body It Just Dismissed

India called the CERD findings politically motivated and highly malicious. The question is whether rejection costs a state seeking Global South leadership more than engagement would.

- ICERD was adopted in 1965 and entered into force in 1969; India ratified it in 1968.
- Article 1(1) defines racial discrimination by race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin.
- CERD's General Recommendation of 2002 held that descent includes caste-based discrimination.
- India appeared before CERD on August 11 and 12, 2026, its first review since 2007.
- CERD had used early-warning and urgent-action procedures on Assam in May 2025 and January 2026.
- Article 17 of the Constitution abolishes untouchability and forbids its practice in any form.
- The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 penalises the enforcement of untouchability.
- ★ The SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is the dedicated atrocities statute.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK CERD is a **treaty body** created by ICERD, made up of independent experts. It is **not** a UN Charter body and it is **not** the **Human Rights Council**, which is...

Apna Jal: The Water India Already Has and Refuses to Use

Two water policy experts argue treated wastewater is India's most reliable untapped supply, and that the UP and Uttarakhand reuse policies show what contextual policymaking looks like.

- The National Framework on Safe Reuse of Treated Water was published in 2022.
- It was developed by the National Mission for Clean Ganga under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The India-EU water partnership and GIZ supported the framework's preparation.
- The framework mandates states to develop their own treated-water reuse policies.
- ★ AMRUT, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, was launched in 2015.
- AMRUT 2.0 was launched in October 2021 under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- CPCB's 2021 inventory: urban sewage generation about 72,368 MLD against about 31,841 MLD installed capacity.
- The NMCG's parent ministry is the Ministry of Jal Shakti.



Full article

PRELIMS HOOK Reuse of **treated wastewater** is not the same as **rainwater harvesting** or **groundwater recharge**, and the SRTW framework is not part of the Jal Jeevan...

Q1 The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation maintains two permanent bodies. Where are they located?

- ☐ a Both the Secretariat and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure are at Beijing
- ☐ b The Secretariat is at Tashkent and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is at Beijing
- ☐ c The Secretariat is at Beijing and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is at Tashkent
- ☐ d The Secretariat is at Astana and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is at Bishkek

Q2 The Index of Eight Core Industries carries what weight in the Index of Industrial Production, and which body releases it?

- ☐ a 40.27 per cent, released by the Office of the Economic Adviser in the DPIIT
- ☐ b 40.27 per cent, released by the National Statistics Office under MoSPI
- ☐ c 27.40 per cent, released by the Office of the Economic Adviser in the DPIIT
- ☐ d 54.30 per cent, released by the Ministry of Finance

Q3 The Ethanol Supply Year used in India biofuel programme runs over which period?

- ☐ a November to October
- ☐ b April to March
- ☐ c January to December
- ☐ d July to June

Q4 A geostationary Earth-observation satellite such as EOS-05 differs from a satellite in sun-synchronous low Earth orbit principally because it:

- ☐ a Offers higher spatial resolution at the cost of longer revisit intervals
- ☐ b Offers far higher temporal resolution at the cost of coarser spatial resolution
- ☐ c Can image the entire globe including both polar regions in a single pass
- ☐ d Requires no station-keeping propellant because its orbit is inherently stable

Q5 Superintendence, direction and control of elections to municipalities is vested in which authority, and by which Article?

- ☐ a The Election Commission of India, by Article 324
- ☐ b The State Government, by Article 243W
- ☐ c The State Election Commission, by Article 243ZA
- ☐ d The Governor of the State, by Article 243Q

ANSWER KEY 1-5 · 4-7 · a-3 · e-2 · c-1

Explanations for all 15 questions: [ujjyari.com/daily/2026/08/31/quiz/](https://www.ujjyari.com/daily/2026/08/31/quiz/)



COMPILED & FACT-CHECKED BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator · [ujjyari.com](https://www.ujjyari.com)

Built from the day's fact-checked articles and editorial analyses.

Sources are named on every card; every figure, office-holder and date is verified against primary sources before publication.



TODAY'S FULL EDITION
[ujjyari.com](https://www.ujjyari.com)



ALL REVISION SHEETS
[ujjyari.com/revision](https://www.ujjyari.com/revision)



TELEGRAM CHANNEL
t.me/UjjyariCurrentAffairs